

# Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) into the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations

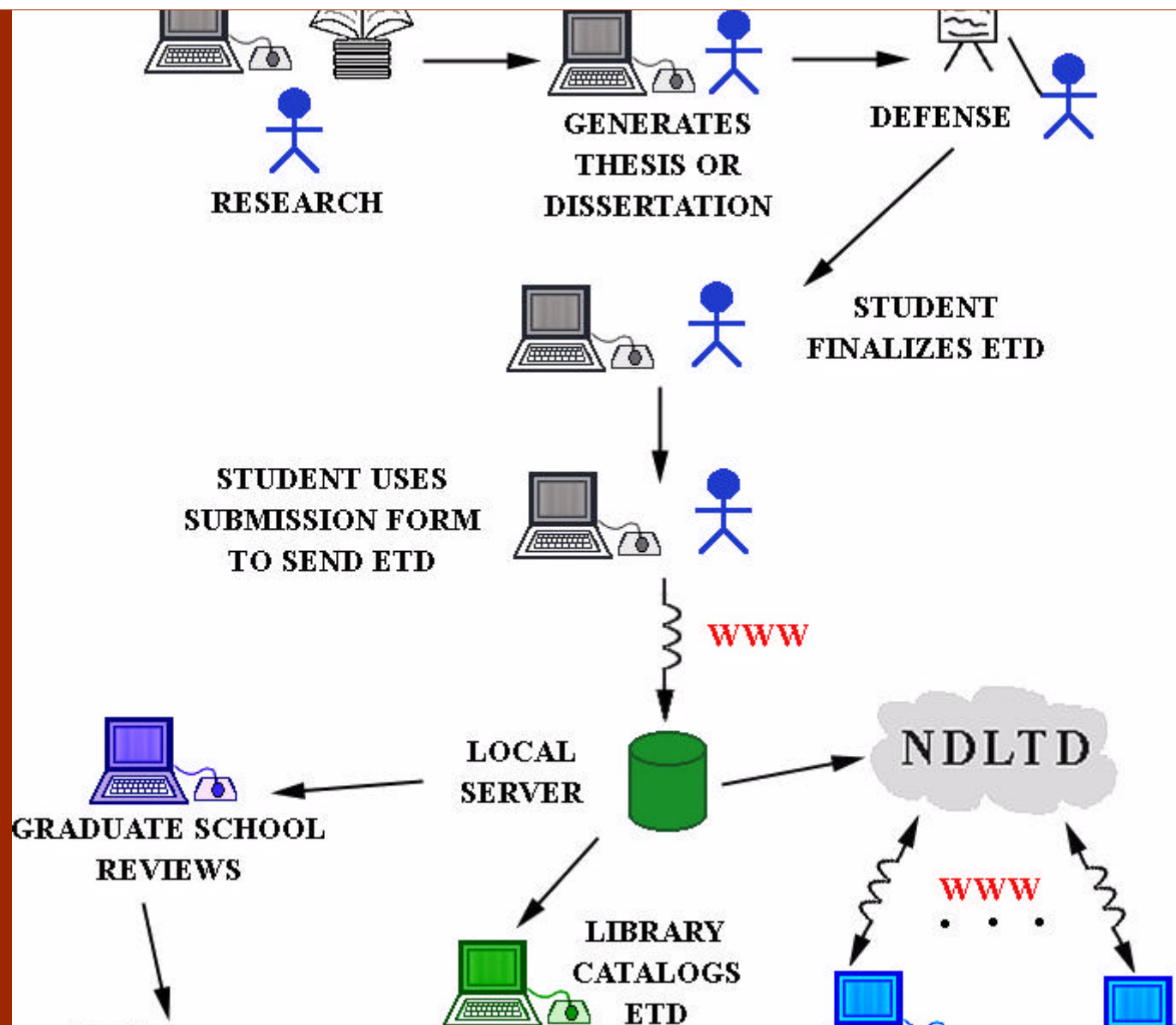
<http://etd.vt.edu/etd/>    [etd@vt.edu](mailto:etd@vt.edu)

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# What are we doing?

- Using computer-based technology to help improve the content and availability of theses and dissertations
- Educating future scholars so they can publish electronically and effectively use digital libraries



# Why are we doing it?

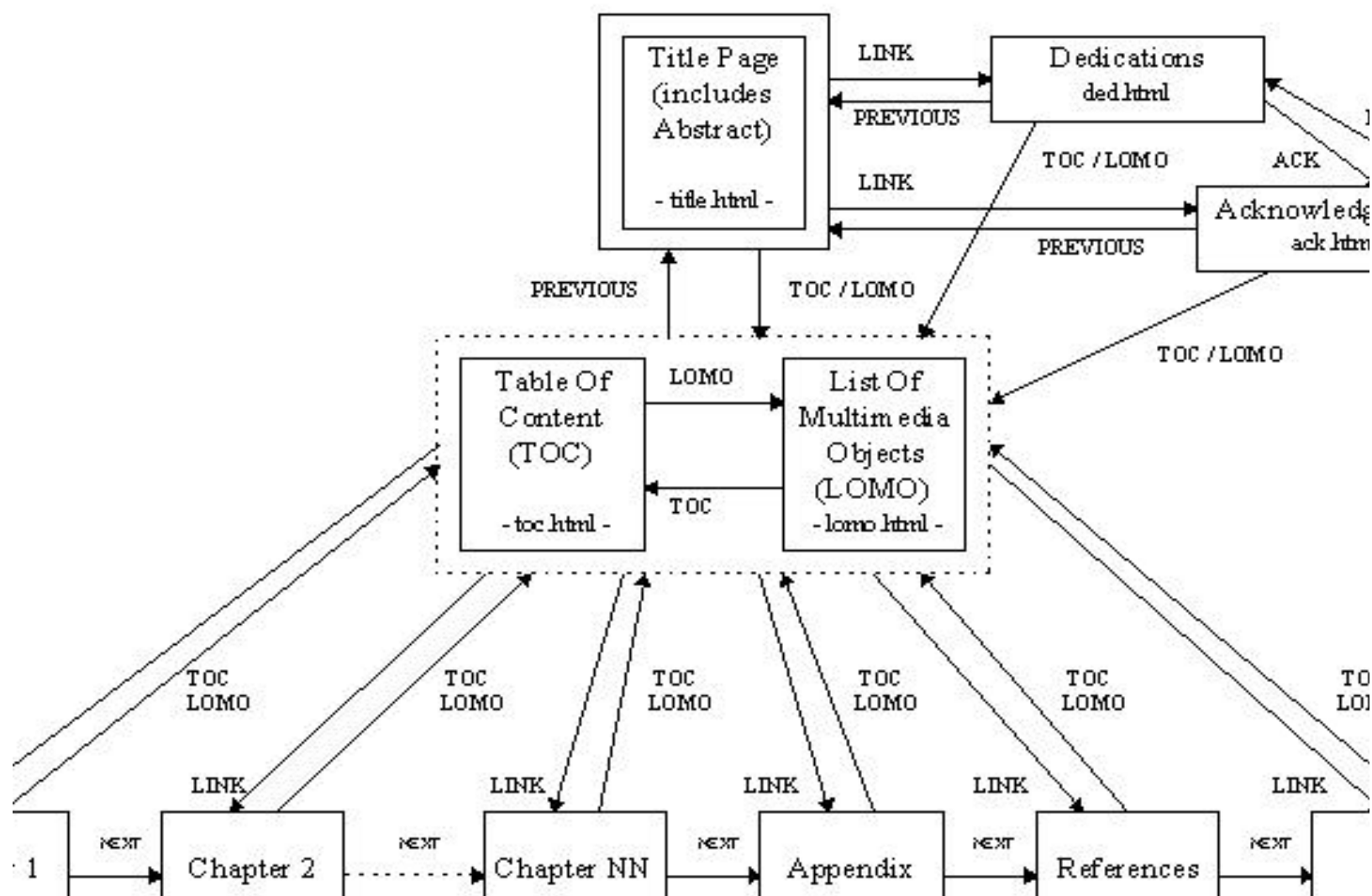
- So students can be more creative and expressive in their scholarship
- So the knowledge contained in TD can be easily and widely accessed
- So students can become information literate and be prepared for a future in the Information Age

# What are the benefits?

- Save the student money without a significant increase in effort
- Save shelf space in the library
- Build the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations
- Make access to ETDs more rapid and less expensive

# What are the long term goals

- 400K students / year getting grad degrees are exposed / involved
- ETDs are rich hypermedia works
- Grad education is more effective, students more productive
- University publishing is revitalized
- Knowledge, technology transfer are faster and better



# Virginia Tech?

- Produced using standard word processing packages as PDF files
- Reviewed by the Graduate School
- Cataloged and archived by the library
- Downloaded by UMI from the library



# Status of the Local Project

- Approved by university governance for implementation in Spring 1997
- Submission software now in place
- Submission workshops for student and faculty occur often
- Over 50 ETDs have been submitted
- Project is being expanded to involve other universities

## How has usage changed?

- For Virginia Tech theses submitted 1990-94, the combined avg circulation per copy is 2.24/yr
- For Virginia Tech dissertations submitted 1990-94 the combined avg circulation per copy is 3.2/yr
- For July-August 1996, there were 1190 inquiries to the 50 ETD abstracts and 324 to fulltext

# Available to Help Others

- WWW site with all you might need
- Automated submission system
- Student guidelines, style sheets, training materials, FAQs, PR info
- SGML DTD for ETDs
- SGML to HTML (web generator)
- LaTeX, Word templates, converters
- Multimedia educ. materials

# Cooperating Universities Involved in the Project

- Auburn University
- Clemson University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- University of Georgia
- Mississippi State University
- North Carolina State University
- Univ. North Carolina Charlotte
- University of Virginia
- Vanderbilt University

# Interested in the Project

- Columbia University
- Ohio State University
- MIT
- Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Utah
- ...
- Last week - a university in S. Africa

# Who are the sponsors and cooperators?

- Virginia Tech
- SURA
- CSGS/CGS and CNI
- Dept. of Ed. (FIPSE)
- University Microfilms
- IBM
- Adobe Systems

# What are steps toward future

- North Carolina State University is implementing a start-up plan.
- The SURA/SOLINET Monticello Electronic Library will include theses and dissertations.
- This concept is being extended to the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations

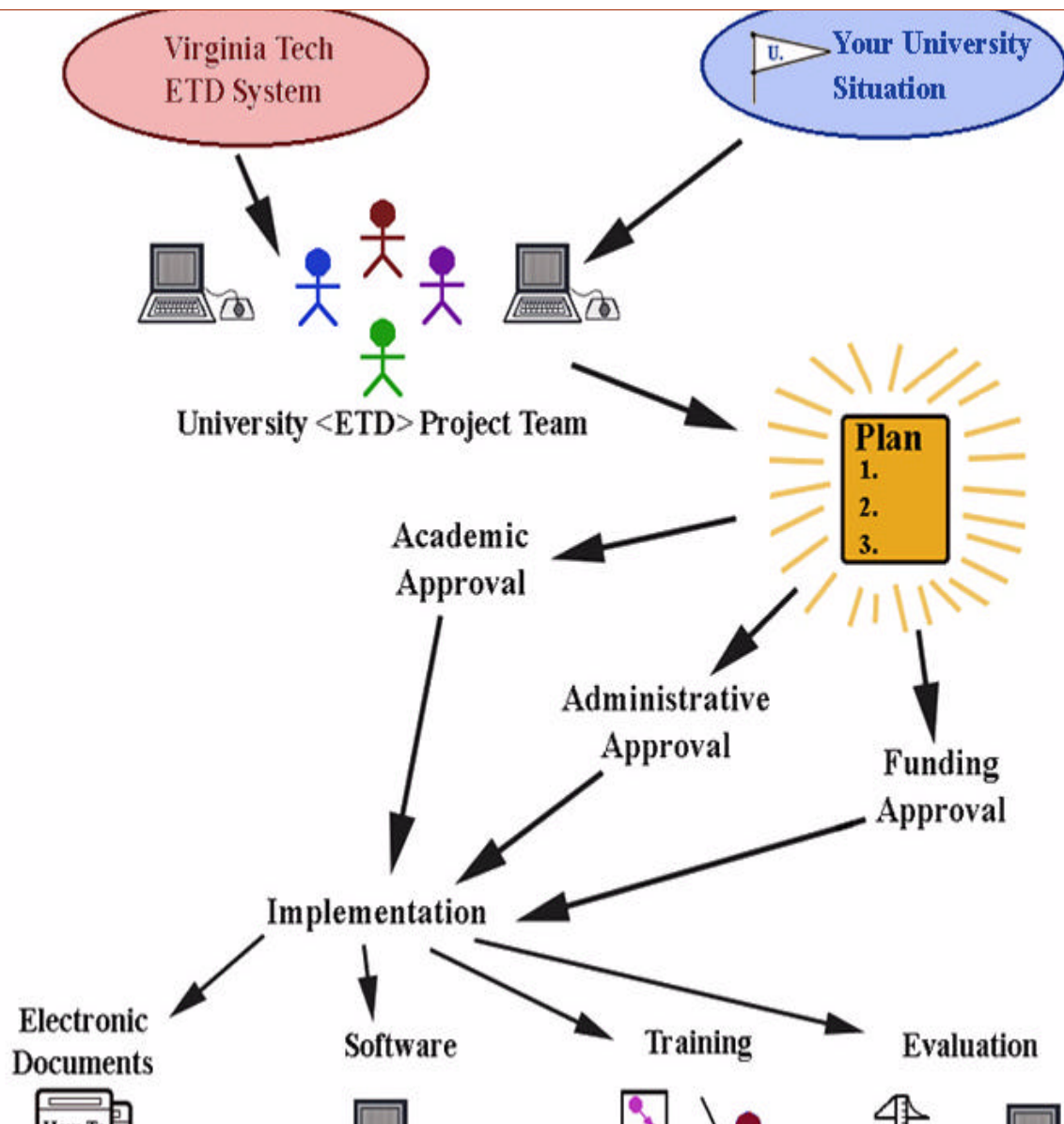
# Why might your UIUC want to be involved?

- To improve graduate education
- To unlock university information
- To save money for students and for the university
- To build an important digital library that will help others get built



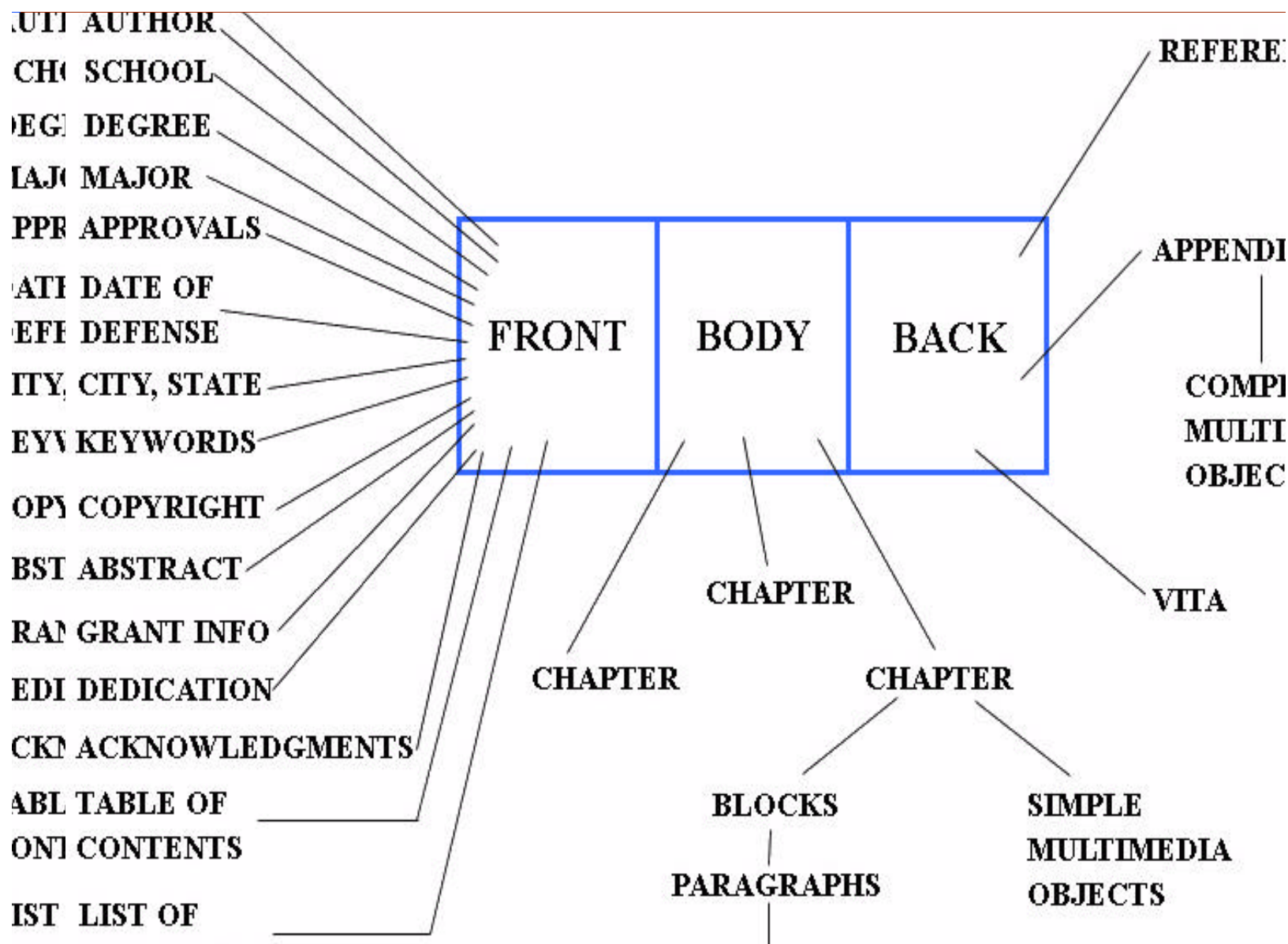
# How can UIUC get involved?

- Planning/implementation team
  - Graduate School
  - Library
  - Computing / Information Technology
  - Institutional Research / Educ. Tech.
- Adapt Virginia Tech solution
- Parallel development
  - Build interest and consensus



# What are some challenges?

- Training students to submit in SGM
- Explaining importance to publishers
- Managerial and technical steering
- Evaluating at national scale and over research career of grad students
- Improving digital library technology
- Scalability, sustainability, usability



# ETD Contributors

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